

them all on the debt ceiling and then he'll decide how big a crisis he wants."

We cannot balance the budget on the backs of working people. We cannot cut Medicare \$270 billion to give a tax break for the rich. Stop your extreme agenda, Republican leadership, and let us get on with the people's business.

#### REPUBLICAN BUDGET RESTORES AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the debate rages on regarding the balanced budget and I am a little tired of hearing the same old excuses over and over. The calls that are coming into my office right now overwhelmingly say do not let up, keep pushing for a balanced budget and do it now. They tell me we have a wonderful opportunity to finally end the habit of spending away our children's future, and balance the budget.

What is so extreme about working together to save Medicare for our parents and our grandparents? What is so extreme about working together to reform welfare, to emphasize work? What is so extreme about working together to cut taxes for working families? This budget restores the American dream. An analysis done by the Heritage Foundation said the Republican plan to balance the budget in 7 years with tax relief will offer the following for workers: \$32 billion more to keep for themselves in tax relief, higher compensation per hour for workers, lower mortgage rates, more industrial production.

This is clearly a wonderful opportunity. No more excuses. It is time to do the right thing for the people of this country. Balance the budget.

#### BIPARTISANSHIP CALLED FOR IN BUDGET BATTLE

(Mr. BISHOP asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, the President should not give in to blackmail.

The Republican leaders in Congress are attempting to blackmail the American people into accepting a budget-balancing plan that pays for a massive \$245 billion tax cut for the rich by extreme \$450 billion reductions in Medicare and Medicaid.

The Republicans threaten to force the Government to default in its obligations and shut down unless the President lets them balance the budget in 7 years their way—a way that hurts seniors, hurts children, hurts veterans, hurts farmers, hurts rural hospitals, and hurts college students.

I am a fiscal conservative. I support a balanced budget. Conservative Democrats offered a bill to balance the budget in 7 years that is credible, makes reasonable reductions in Government programs while preserving those that

benefit our Nation's people. The Republican majority rejected this fair bill.

Let's get a bipartisan agreement to balance the budget in a way that is fair and just to all Americans—not just the rich. But let's not give in to Republican's blackmail.

□ 1030

#### SPENDING BINGE HAS TO END

(Mr. WALSH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, the mandate from Americans in last year's elections was clear.

Cut the fat in Government. Rein in the spending. Save our country. The spending binge has to end.

We promised our constituents we would balance the budget. President Clinton, you are standing in the way. This is not a political campaign. We are talking about the future of our country.

Republicans have produced a budget which spares the vulnerable.

Our budget will not cut spending on important programs. It allows for growth at a sustainable rate.

Student loans: In 7 years, annual student loan spending goes from \$24.5 to \$36.4 billion in 2002.

Medicaid: In the past 7 years, Medicaid spending totaled \$443 billion. In the next 7 years, \$773 billion.

Medicare: In the past 7 years, we spent \$926 billion. In the next 7 years, \$1.6 trillion.

Over the next 7 years, Medicare spending per beneficiary will increase 40 percent.

We have promised taxpayers we will balance the budget. We will do that.

It's time for President Clinton to say no to spending, and yes to our children. If not now, when, Mr. President?

#### BALANCE THE BUDGET IN 7 YEARS WITHOUT CUTTING MEDICARE AND EDUCATION

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, Speaker GINGRICH has said he wants to keep open the Social Security and veterans offices temporarily so the elderly and veterans will not have to suffer from the shutdown. Well, I am glad to hear that. The problem though is that once they reopen after this budget impasse, there are not going to be as many benefits for them there.

The balanced budget proposal cuts Medicare \$270 billion over the next 7 years, and, in my own State, the Republican bill cuts Medicare by over \$16 billion in Texas. Such a dramatic cutback would have a severe cutback on the 2 million senior citizens. The veterans better watch out because \$6.4 billion is cut over the next 7 years, including increasing veterans' costs for prescription drugs.

Let me look at what has happened from 1 day of the Government shutdown: 28,000 American seniors and workers have been unable to apply for Social Security or disability benefits; 200,000 American seniors have tried to call the 1-800-HELP line, oftentimes to report abuses we need to have reported, and they have not gotten an answer; 7,600 veterans have not been able to file for compensation.

Let us cut this impasse. We want to balance the budget in 7 years, too, but not to cut veterans and Social Security.

#### STICK TO COMMITMENT TO BALANCE THE BUDGET

(Mr. WHITE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WHITE. Mr. Speaker, the public does not like it when Congress and the President cannot get together on a budget. Frankly, neither do I. It would be so much easier on all of us if everything was sweetness and light here in Washington, DC. But, unfortunately, there is a reason that things are not sweetness and light here in Washington, DC, and it is because there is a fundamental disagreement between Congress and the President on an issue that is very crucial to our country. Congress is committed to balancing the budget as soon as possible, but certainly no later than 7 years from now, and the President is not.

Mr. Speaker, since I came here 11 months ago, we have worked very hard on our budget. We have had to make some very difficult decisions. We have had to say no to our own constituents. We have had to make sure we did not use all the phony numbers that we sometimes see from the budgets in the past.

For the first time in 30 years, we have proposed and passed in both Houses of Congress a budget that will balance over the next 7 years. We cannot back off that commitment. It is too important to our children. I hope that the President joins us.

#### IT IS TIME TO END THIS CRISIS

(Mrs. KENNELLY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KENNELLY. Mr. Speaker, if today were a normal day, 28,000 people would be planning to apply for Social Security, survivors, or disability benefits, 1,600 veterans would be filing their new claims for compensation or pensions, and 900 more would be claiming their benefits under the Montgomery GI bill.

If today were a normal day, three-quarters of a million people would be getting up this morning, planning to visit one of the national parks. And, on